Engineering Goods Export

714. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that engineering goods exports are stagnating;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what were the actual exports during 1986-87 and 1987-88 as against total production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The rising trend is indicated by the figures of export given below:

1985-86 : Rs. 1095.41 Crores (Prov.)
1986-87 : Rs. 1150.00 Crores (Prov.)
1987-88 : Rs. 1320.00 Crores (Prov.)

(c) The export figures and the total production during 1986-87 and 1987-88 are as below:

(Rupees in crores)

Year	Exports	Total Production
1986-87	1150.00 (P)*	44.501 (E)**
1987-88	1320.00 (P)	51 399 (E)

*Provisional.

**Estimated.

Crisis in Handloom Industry

715. SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the handloom industry is facing a crisis due to the increase in prices of cotton yarn;

(b) if so, what remedial measures Government have taken or propose to take to save the industry; and

(c) what steps have been taken to promote sale of handloom products within the country and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The handloom industry has been going through a difficult period due to the increase in prices of cotton yarn;

(b) In order to provide relief to the handloom industry, the Government have taken the following steps to check the rise in prices of cotton yarn;

(i) The export of staple cotton has been suspended.

(ii) Import of cotton has been permitted against export of cotton yarn/cotton fabrics and madeups of Advance Licence basis.

(iii) Export of hank yarn upto 60 counts has been stopped.

(iv) Import of one lakh bales of cotton, duty free, has been permitted for production of cotton yarn for supply to handloom sector. The price advantage accruing